



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

*Driving Indiana's Economic Growth*

## Fact Sheet

### Highway Work Zone Safety Awareness Week Fact Sheet

#### Fast Facts

- Nationally, one motorist, passenger or highway worker is killed in a work zone accident every 8.2 hours – that's three people killed each day.
- In the United States, more than 40,000 people are injured in work zone crashes each year. That's more than 100 each day!
- In 2007 alone, 7 people were killed and 835 were injured in Indiana work zones.
- Four out of five people killed in work zones are motorists – not construction workers.
- The most common crash in a highway work zone is a rear-end collision. One in three work zone crashes is a rear end collision.
- The two major reasons for work zone crashes are speeding and inattentive driving.
- It takes just a minute more to travel through a two-mile work zone at 45 mph than at 65 mph.
- Drivers take a terrible risk when speeding through work zones. There is little room for maneuvering and virtually no margin for driver error.
- Areas where traffic is entering or leaving work zones are most dangerous because it is where drivers are jockeying for position.
- Things are improving. In 2007, work zone crashes and fatalities were down in Indiana and no highway workers were killed on the job.
- Thanks to the Major Moves road building program, 2008 will be a record-breaking highway construction season in Indiana – making highway work zone safety more important than ever.

#### Indiana's Work Zone Law

- Indiana's work zone law was passed as House Bill 1623 in the 2007 legislative session and went into effect July 1, 2007.
- House Bill 1623 was signed into law by Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels in a bill signing ceremony on May 22, 2007. Families of fallen highway workers were in attendance.
- Under the new law, fines are raised for speeding in a work zone to \$300 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense and \$1,000 for a third offense in a three-year period.
- Driving recklessly or aggressively in work zones is now a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in prison and up to a \$5,000 fine.
- Driving recklessly or aggressively in a work zone now becomes a Class D felony if you are driving drunk or injure a worker. A Class D felony is punishable by up to three years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.
- Driving recklessly or aggressively in a work zone becomes a class C felony if you kill a worker, punishable by up to eight years in prison and up to \$10,000 in fines.

## Driver Tips

- **Stay alert!** Look for reduced speed limits, narrow driving lanes and highway workers.
- **Pay attention.** Work zone signs will tell you exactly what to expect ahead.
- **Merge early.** If drivers merge as soon as they see the signs, traffic will flow more smoothly.
- **Slow down.** If you're speeding, you may encounter slowed or stopped traffic within seconds.
- **Don't tailgate.** Maintain a safe distance on all sides of your vehicle.
- **Minimize distractions.** The three C's – cell phones, CDs and coffee – are the primary causes of driver inattention.
- **Plan ahead.** Expect delays and allow extra travel time. Select an alternate route if you are running late.